

Message Text

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64

ACTION CU-04

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R 271635Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2355

UNCLAS ATHENS 0810

FOR CU/WE/RABENS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, GR

SUBJECT: VISIT TO US BY CORFU MAYOR SPIROS RATH AND TWO
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED BY IONICS INC., THAT CORFU MAYOR SPIROS RATH AND TWO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL VISIT THE US DURING MARCH AS GUESTS OF IONICS. WHICH RECENTLY RECEIVED CONTRACT FOR CORFU DESALINATION PROJECT. IONICS OFFICIALS HAVE OFFERED TO SCHEDULE ONE TO TWO DAYS IN WASHINGTON FOR MAYOR RATH AND COUNCIL MEMBERS IF CU ABLE TO ARRANGE SUITABLE PROGRAM, PERHAPS INCLUDING CALL ON MAYOR WASHINGTON

2. WE BELIEVE THIS VISIT OFFERS A SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE US SCENE TO THESE IMPORTANT PROVINCIAL LEADERS, PARTICULARLY AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF IONICS' RECENTLY RESOLVED PROBLEMS WITH THE CORFU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AND ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATION IN THAT CITY ON THE OCCASION OF A US NAVY SHIP VISIT LAST MARCH. WITH TRANSPORTATION COSTS BEING COVERED BY IONICS, EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT CU ARRANGE A SUITABLE PROGRAM FOR A VISIT TO WASHINGTON

3. EMBASSY HAS NOT YET CONTACTED RATH CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF WASHINGTON VISIT. SUGGEST RABENS MAKE PRELIMINARY CONTACT WITH IONICS VICE PRESIDENT WILLIAM KATZ, 65 GROVE STREET, WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS 02172, TEL: (617) 9262500

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4. FYI: SPIROS RATH, WHO SERVED AS CENTR UNION MAYOR OF
CORFU PRIOR TO 1967, WAS RE-ELECTED IN APRIL 1975. AS MAYOR,
HE PLAYED LEADING ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH IONICS
AND EVENTUAL DECISION TO SIGN NEW CONTRACT. END FYI.
KUBISCH

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